

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 39-46 are pending, in which claim 39 is amended, and claims 43-53 are added. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., FIGS. 2-4, Spec. pp. 10:19-20 and 15:17-19:3).

The present Office Action rejected claims 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Thompson* (US 5,457,796).

The rejection of claims 39-42 is respectfully overcome, because *Thompson* fails to disclose the features recited in the claims. For example, independent claim 39, as amended, recites “selecting a fewer number of partitions of the table than the number of partitions of the table.” By selecting a fewer number of partitions of the table than the number of partitions of the table, advantageously, data can be imported and exported “at a level of granularity smaller than the entire table,” archival, backup, and restoration of data “procedures are simplified,” and “data from different partitions of a huge table” can be imported or exported “in parallel avoiding bottlenecks of disk access or processor cycles” (Specification, pp. 15:1-15 and 19:4-16).

By contrast, *Thompson* fails to disclose not only the table but also selecting fewer partitions of the table than the number of partitions of the table. *Thompson* is directed to a back-up file system (referred to as a “dump file system”) that can be stored on a Write-Once, Read-Many (WORM) device. *Thompson*, Abstract. Specifically, the dump file system **109** is created by performing a “dump operation,” which “conserves the state of the primary file system **111** at the time the dump operation is performed.” *Id.*, col. 4:26-34. The dump operation works by making copies of the disk blocks that constitute the files and directories, thereby replicating the structure of the primary file system **111** in the dump file system **109**. *Id.* cols. 8:55-9:31. Since *Thompson* is intended to replicate the structure of the primary file system **111**, there is no need or appreciation of

selecting a fewer number of partitions of a table (which is not a file system) than the number of partitions of the table.

The portions of *Thompson* cited in the present Office Action with respect to partitions do not support the rejection. Column 2:27-33 merely states that a file system is a collection of read-only files and read/write files. However, such a general disclosure of a file system and its files does not amount to a disclosure of a table and its partitions. The Office Action contends that this arrangement, however, is somehow “equivalent,” but anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a disclosure of the claim elements, not some alleged “equivalent.” Equivalents is properly an issue for infringement, e.g. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 535 US 722 (2002), or for limitations recited in means-plus-function format pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 6, neither of which is the case here.

As another example, col. 14:28-33 of *Thompson* discloses a dump operation behaves as follows:

To begin a dump operation, file server 503 goes through map 603 and places **all** map entries 605 which are in the read/write state in the dump state. It then reestablishes primary file system 111 as previously described using the file operations just described. At this point, the dump operation is finished.

However, this disclosure in *Thompson* of an operation with respect to saving “**all**” read/write files of a file system fails to disclose “selecting a **fewer** number of partitions of a table,” as recited in independent claim 39.

New claims 43-53 are allowable over *Thompson*. For example, new independent claim 43 recites “retrieving from the dump file data contained in selected partitions of a first relational database table, wherein the selected partitions are a subset of a total number of partitions of the first relational database table,” new independent claim 46 recites “subdividing the database

object into a number of partitions,” and new independent claim 50 recites “retrieving from the dump file data contained in selected partitions of a first database object, wherein the selected partitions are a subset of a total number of partitions of the first database object.”

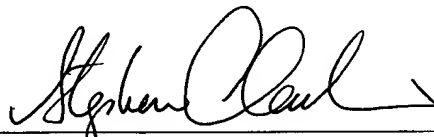
Dependent claims 40-42, 44-45, 47-49, and 51-53 are allowable over *Thompson* on their own merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to their independent claims.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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APPENDIXIN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 39, and add new claims 43-53, as follows:

39. (Once Amended) A method of exporting data from a table into a dump file, said table being subdivided into a number of partitions, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a fewer number of partitions of the table than the number of partitions of the table;

and

for each of the selected partitions of the table, storing in the dump file data contained in said

each of the selected partitions of the table, wherein data contained in a partition of the

table that is not selected is not stored in the dump file.

43. (New) A method of importing data from a dump file into a relational database table, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving from the dump file data contained in selected partitions of a first relational

database table, wherein the selected partitions are a subset of a total number of partitions

of the first relational database table; and

importing the data contained in selected partitions into corresponding partitions of a second

relational database table, wherein the corresponding partitions are a subset of a total

number of partitions of the second relational database table.

44. (New) A method according to claim 43, wherein the subset of the total number of partitions is exactly one.

45. (New) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged, upon execution, to cause one or more processors to perform the steps of the method according to claim 43.

46. (New) A method of exporting data from a database object into a dump file, said method comprising the steps of:

subdividing the database object into a number of partitions;

selecting a fewer number of partitions than the number of partitions; and

for each of the selected partitions, storing in the dump file data contained in said each of the selected partitions, wherein data contained in a partition that is not selected is not stored in the dump file.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46, wherein the database object includes one of a relational database table, a database data container, and object oriented database object class.

48. (New) A method according to claim 46, wherein the fewer number of partitions is exactly one.

49. (New) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged, upon execution, to cause one or more processors to perform the steps of the method according to claim 46.

50. (New) A method of importing data from a dump file into a database object, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving from the dump file data contained in selected partitions of a first database object, wherein the selected partitions are a subset of a total number of partitions of the first database object; and

importing the data contained in selected partitions into corresponding partitions of a second database object, wherein the corresponding partitions are a subset of a total number of partitions of the second database object.

51. (New) A method according to claim 50, wherein the first and second database objects include one of a relational database table, a database data container, and object oriented database object class.

52. (New) A method according to claim 50, wherein the subset of the total number of partitions is exactly one.

53. (New) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged, upon execution, to cause one or more processors to perform the steps of the method according to claim 50.